
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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AUDIT REPORT — CITY OF BAYARD

Special Investigation. On March 27, 2018, the Auditor of State released a report of a special investigation of the City of Bayard for the period of July 1, 2010, through April 30, 2014. The investigation resulted from concerns about certain financial transactions processed by the former City Clerk, Renee Van Gundy.

On the same day, the Auditor of State also released a report of a similar investigation of the City of Yale that also involved the same individual during her tenure as City Clerk in Yale. See the related ***Fiscal Update Article*** [here](#).

Findings. The special investigation of the City of Bayard identified \$31,624 in improper and unsupported disbursements. Included in that amount is \$26,259 in improper credit card charges, including personal purchases made at several stores and restaurants, as well as unauthorized payroll and other improperly issued payments to Ms. Van Gundy.

Also included in the total is \$2,376 in unsupported disbursements charged to City credit cards assigned to a former maintenance employee and to Ms. Van Gundy. Supporting documentation for the purchases was not available, and it was not possible to determine whether the purchases were for City operations or personal in nature.

City records, bank statements, and credit card statements were not available prior to January 1, 2011, and auditors were unable to determine whether there were any additional improper or unsupported disbursements during Ms. Van Gundy's employment.

Recommendations. The report makes recommendations to strengthen the City's internal controls, including better segregation of duties, performing utility reconciliations, maintaining proper supporting documentation, and ensuring timely approval and payment of obligations.

The full report can be found on the Auditor of State's website [here](#).

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